

The Advisory Committee would like to share the following joint statement with the Land Board today:

We agree that important issues have been discussed by people of differing perspectives. DSL and OSU asked for our insight and input on questions of critical importance to the future of the Elliott. Our feedback offered DSL and OSU meaningful guidance which can be seen in the Guiding Principles and other elements of the OSU plan that is emerging.

The wealth of experience of the members of the committee led to rich and meaningful conversations based on the perspectives of the constituencies represented around the table. This wealth, along with the content experts brought in to educate the committee, has resulted in the committee achieving a strong understanding of the issues facing the concept of creating the Elliott State Research Forest. Additionally the open and honest discourse among the committee members allowed for diverse perspectives.

While our conversations have been productive, we are not finished discussing and resolving these highly complex issues. Future conversations will be critical to a successful outcome. The committee remains resolute to continuing our work as we recognize the importance of the endeavor and are encouraged by the opportunity to bring a research forest of this magnitude to Oregon.

We appreciate the progress that has been made through the Advisory Committee process. OSU has demonstrated that there is potential for a research forest to meet expectations for public ownership and access, an HCP which addresses conservation and harvest, local economic benefit, and non-economic education benefits.

We acknowledge that not all questions have been answered. Key pieces, such as a successful strategy for decoupling, and decisions on governance structure, have not been resolved in our discussions to date.

As an advisory committee, we agree and recommend that continued exploration of the research forest concept is a worthwhile endeavor and are committed to continuing our work. Our individual perspectives on the Elliott State Forest and our priorities for its future may differ, however, we agree that OSU should be provided the opportunity to address outstanding issues and determine if terms required to resolve those issues are consistent with the Land Board vision for the Elliott.